

CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A tire labeling system for positioning a label on a tire tread surface of a specific tire, wherein the specific tire is maintained within a stack of tires, the tire labeling system comprising,
 - a computer adapted to receive tire information and position information regarding a specific tire within a stack of tires;
 - a printer receiving the tire information for the specific tire from said computer and printing the tire information on the label;
 - a single applicator configured to receive the label for placement on a tire tread surface of the specific tire within the stack of tires;
 - a frame carrying the applicator, the frame receiving the position information so as to direct movement of the applicator along a first axis, a second axis, and a third axis, and including at least one first guide for linearly moving the applicator along the first axis, a second guide supported by the at least one first guide for linearly moving the applicator along the second axis, and a third guide supported by the second guide for linearly moving the applicator along the third axis; and
 - [[an]] a rotatable arm carried by one of said guides, wherein said rotatable arm is rotatable with respect to one of said axes and wherein said computer instructs said rotatable arm to linearly move along the first, second and third axes so as to pick up a label from said printer with said rotatable [[head]] arm, and then move said rotatable arm along said axes so as to apply the label to the tire tread surface of the specific tire within the stack of tires.
2. (Original) A tire labeling system according to claim 1, wherein the second guide is formed as a cross member, the cross member supported by two first guides for movement along the first axis.
3. (Original) A tire labeling system according to claim 2, wherein the third guide is formed as a post, the post supported by the second guide for movement along the second axis.

4. (Original) A tire labeling system according to claim 3, wherein a carriage carrying the applicator is supported by the post, the carriage being moveable on the post along the third axis.
 5. (Previously Presented) A tire labeling system according to claim 4, wherein said arm is rotatably attached to the carriage, the arm being rotatable between said pick-up position and at least one application position.
 6. (Previously Presented) A tire labeling system according to claim 5, wherein the applicator includes said rotatable head having a head surface for receiving the label, the head being repositionable, according to movement of the arm, and movement of the applicator along the first axis, the second axis, and the third axis, to pick up the label and apply the label to the tire.
 7. (Previously Presented) A tire labeling system according to claim 6, wherein the head surface includes an opening extending therethrough, and wherein said head is in communication with a vacuum line adapted to selectively apply a vacuum through the opening to pick up the label as instructed by said computer.
 8. (Canceled)
 9. (Previously Presented) A tire labeling system according to claim 1, wherein the frame includes a carriage carrying the applicator, the carriage being supported by the third guide for movement along the third axis.
- 10 - 14 (Canceled)
15. (Currently Amended) A method for applying printed labels to a tread surface of a specific tire, wherein the specific tire is maintained within a stack of tires, comprising:

supplying tire information regarding [[the]] a tire to a computer including position information of where the specific tire is in [[the]] a stack of tires;

instructing a printer to print the tire information on a label;

using an applicator on a rotatable arm to remove the label from the printer;

linearly moving the applicator in a first axis, a second axis, and a third axis so as to position the applicator near the specific tire; and

[[moving]] rotating the rotatable arm with respect to one of the axes by the applicator so as to apply the label to the specific tire tread surface within the stack of tires.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the label is made self-adhesive and is mounted on a backing; the method further comprising using the applicator to separate the label from the backing before applying the label to the tire.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising selectively applying a vacuum to a rotatable head extending from said rotatable arm to separate the label from the backing.
18. (Canceled)